

JESSE HELMS
NORTH CAROLINA

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3301

September 28, 1999

ORIGINAL

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LP Radio
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PM '99

Respectfully referred to:

Ms. Sheryl J. Wilkerson
Federal Communications Commission
Room 808
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquires and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views will be appreciated by


JESSE HELMS, U.S.S.

Please direct to the attention of:

Cady Thomas
Office of Senator Jesse Helms
403 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-6342

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Mark Media Group

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September 24, 1999

Senator Jesse A. Helms
402 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510-3301

Dear Congressman Taylor:

I'm sure you are aware that the Federal Communications Commission has proposed the creation of a new low power FM service with thousands of stations from 1 watt to 1,000 watts. The FCC chairman seems absolutely convinced that the creation of this LPFM should be his legacy.

As the owner and operator of four small market AM radio stations in Western North Carolina, and based on forty years experience and service to our communities, I am convinced that the FCC's ill conceived plans would devastate local radio which plays a vital roll especially in these small mountain communities. This comes at a time when we are dealing with lots of new competition for listeners and advertising dollars from cable, DTV, digital satellite radio, the internet and other new technologies. Small market broadcasters are providing more local services than ever.

Technical studies by the N.C. Association of Broadcasters, the National Association of Broadcasters and various engineering groups show that the proposed low power FM would cause extensive interference to existing full power stations. Service from public and non commercial stations would be impaired. Hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians would lose service from their favorite radio stations should this proposal be adopted.

This new low power FM service would impede and jeopardize the industry's transition to in-band on-channel digital radio and would deprive North Carolina citizens access to this new technology.

WKYK, BURNSVILLE, NC

WISE, ASHEVILLE, NC


WTOE, SPRUCE PINE, NC

WTZO, HENDERSONVILLE, NC

J. ARDELL SINK, PRESIDENT/CEO



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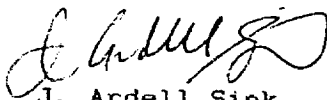
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Objectionable interference from new low power FM stations would affect the ability of hundreds of thousands in North Carolina to receive local news, school information and closings, emergency weather reports and other programming that they have come to expect from full service community broadcasters like my stations in Burnsville, Spruce Pine, Asheville and Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Based on the technical data and documented loss of existing service to the public, lower power FM can not be in the public interest. The FCC can't change the laws of physics.

Destroying existing service to create thousands of new stations would be irrational. As a long time broadcaster with a career based on community service, increasingly, I am convinced that Chairman Kennard and the FCC simply either don't know or don't care about what it is like out here in the real world. I urge you to express our concerns to the FCC.

Sincerely,



J. Ardell Sink
President/Owner

WKYK, BURNSVILLE, NC

WISE, ASHEVILLE, NC

WTOE, SPRUCE PINE, NC

WTZQ, HENDERSONVILLE, NC

J. ARDELL SINK, PRESIDENT/CEO